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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

UNITED STATES NATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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December 27, 1958

Mr. V. P. Eliutin,
Minister of Education
Moscow, U. S. S. R.

Dear Mr. Eliutin:

The United States National Student Association, the most representative student organization in the United States, desires an increased understanding and an exchange of ideas, skills and techniques between the students of the U. S. S. R. and the U. S.

The most beneficial opportunities for this, in our estimation, come through exchanges of students which allow direct and unhurried contact on an individual and personal level. We were therefore very pleased that the cultural agreement of a year ago between the United States and the Soviet Union provided for an exchange of students for a full year.

The students of our two countries have been able to make a small beginning toward bettering their understanding of each other through the exchange of youth and student editors arranged between the Committee on Youth Organizations and the United States National Student Association. However, news articles, speeches and editorials written by participants in the previous exchanges from both countries convince us that both parties reached the same conclusion regarding the provisions of more beneficial programs: there should be time to continue conversations with individual students; there should be a great deal of "free time" to allow unhurried personal observations; and the exchanges should have the opportunity to know the area, the city and the people of the other country, instead of constantly traveling. We fully agree with the statement made by Mr. Romanovsky and Mr. Jugrov regarding the statement regarding future exchange programs between our organizations: that long term exchanges were "initially ideal."

We were disheartened by the indication these officials of the CIO gave that ways could not be found for their organization to conduct this "most ideal" form of exchange. USNSA is very hopeful that the initial beginnings which have been made will offer a foundation for more significant programs between students of the two countries.

It is our understanding from correspondence received from the Committee on Youth Organizations in May and August of last year, and from comments made by Mr. Romanovsky and Mr. Jugrov in New York on August 4, that an exchange program covering a year of study could be arranged through the Soviet Ministry of Education. Initial suggestions were that students selected by the two student

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Mr. V. P. Eliutin

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organizations be exchanged through the official cultural agreement signed between our countries. Because arrangements for selection of the exchange students from the United States had already been designated to a private organization, the Inter-University Committee on Travel Grants, USNSA found it impossible to carry out its desired exchange program through the governmental agreement.

Our interest in promoting an academic exchange program with the Student Council of the Committee on Youth Organizations leads us to accept their suggestion that our proposal be made to the Ministry of Education of the U. S. S. R. Consultation with the United States State Department has affirmed that presentation of our proposal to you and the implementation of the exchange need not be made through the U. S. State Department, because the Agreement negotiated by Ambassadors Zarubin and Lacy did not prohibit other exchange programs between the two countries.

USNSA therefore proposes to you an exchange program as follows:

- (1) An exchange of two students each way to be arranged for the academic year 1959-60.
- (2) USNSA and the designated Soviet organization would be responsible for selection of the students from their countries. It would be understood that the educational institutions reserve the final right to admit a student. USNSA would make every effort to insure that a Soviet nominee would be admitted to an institution appropriate to his interest.
- (3) Choice of universities for the students to attend in the two countries would depend on the expressed preference of the exchangees as to where they would like to study, suggestions of the sponsoring organizations and the availability of facilities at various institutions.
- (4) With regard to expenses:
 - a. Travel costs to the host country and return from it would be borne by the sponsoring organizations for its own students.
 - b. All expenses of the Soviet students in the United States, including tuition, room and board, necessary books, and a monthly allowance for incidentals of about \$50, would be borne by the USNSA with arrangements to cover reciprocal cost by the sponsoring Soviet organization.

It is our hope that you will desire a program of long term exchange, and we anxiously await an indication from you regarding the possibilities of arranging such a program. We fully share the feeling of Mr. Bugrov expressed in a letter to us, that "if the desire exists, ways, forms and possibilities can always be found for furthering such cooperation."

Sincerely yours,

Robert Kiley
Robert Kiley
President

Willard Johnson
Willard Johnson
International Affairs
Vice President